2: Durham B-5 (ca. 1910)1928 EG1 Albania EG1
Historical Albania EG2

nation, which is the greatest, could put into the field more than 15,000 men on horseback, well fitted to wage war in the manner of their country, valiant and good fighters. And the said nations, both Latins and Abbanois, are harshly oppressed under the intolerable and very hard servitude of the most hateful and abominable lordship of the Slavs. Indeed, they are a downtrodden people; their clergy is lowered and humbled; their bishops and abbots often imprisoned; their nobles disinherited and imprisoned; their churches, both cathedrals and collegiate, are dispersed and deprived of power; their monasteries and priories lost and destroyed. They, one and all, would think to consecrate their hands in the blood of the said Slavs if they saw coming a Prince of France who would be their leader and chief against the said Slavs, the enemies of truth and of our faith. One thousand French horse and five or six infantry, along with the said Abbanois and Latins, could conquer at their ease the whole of this Kingdom of Rassie, such as it is."

This passage, written almost at the height of Serb power, shows clearly that the Serb conqueror had failed to destroy the Albanian sense of nationality, and failed to force the Serbian Orthodox Church upon the people; and that there was a very large Albanophone population with a Catholic clergy of its own. The bishoprics of Antivari, Scutari, Sappa, and Pulati still exist, and have survived both Serb and Turk. Into this reserve of Albanian nationality the refugees from the surrounding districts fled when the Turks advanced. The mountain population, then as now, was no doubt scattered in isolated houses or family groups of several houses on the mountain pastures, and not gathered into towns or villages. They formed "katuns." That the population was numerous is shown by the many ecclesiastical and political documents, correspondence with the Vatican, Venice, and Ragusa, and old Serbian archives. Thus in 1348 Tsar Stefan Dushan gives to the monastery he is founding at Prizren nine Albanian "katuns" near Prizren, the said Albanians to give serf labour to the monastery. He gives also some land in Upper Pulati, together with its inhabitants. Several still existing place-names are mentioned: Shikje, Krue e Madhe (the great spring of water), and Sakati. "The existing Catholic clergy at Shikje who have vineyards" are to pay a tribute of wine to the monastery (an Orthodox one), and so are certain other districts. The people of Lower Pulati are to pay tribute of 100,000 silk cocoons. Several mills are handed to the monastery and in one case the miller, Zan, and his brethren are mentioned. No one may erect a mill on Church land, under penalty of a fine and loss of the mill. (The Church alone has the right to grind corn. This would give it immense power.) Large districts of Lower Pulati are given to the Serb Church, including the

H 702
H 636 798
H [186]
A 194 779
A 361
H A 161
H A 792 566 103
H 651 792 233
H 256
H 794

7: Amery G-5 (1943-44) 1948 EG1 Albania EG1

NOTE ON THE SPELLING OF ALBANIAN NAMES

● 194 In the spelling of names and place-names, I have sought to render the original Albanian as nearly as possible as it is pronounced. To this end I have employed a system of English consonants and Italian vowels. I have thus eschewed the conventions of modern Albanian spelling which, however logical in themselves, give to an Englishman an entirely false impression of the sounds which they are intended to transcribe.[1] Likewise, in the rendering of South Slav names, I have preferred what seems to me the more natural and phonetic spelling to the conventions of the official " Latinitza ". I have followed the same course in the rendering of the many Albanian names which are derived from Turkish or Arabic.

My sole object has been to convey to the reader the strange sounds of a strange land, in the hope that they may evoke for him — for such is the magic of sounds — something of the atmosphere in which we lived.

[1] Thus, in modern Albanian, the name of the present Albanian Prime Minister is written *Hexha*, though pronounced *Heja*.

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